



Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church

Financial Report

2023

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Our Lady Help of Christians Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham
Registered Charity Number: 234216

Financial Report 2023

Church Floor Renovation

The most obvious feature of our accounts for 2023 is the collection for and payment of the cost of renovating the floor in the church. The response to our appeal was extremely good and I thank everyone for their generosity in time, energy, and money. The fund-raising committee deserve a special mention for their great work. Many people have commented what a difference the shiny floor has made to our church, making it a brighter and more welcoming place.

Offertories

Thank you to all parishioners for your generosity in the offertory collections. There has been a slight decrease in the gift aid offertory collections but a large increase in the non-gift aid offertory collections. This is a great help making sure that the parish can move forward with confidence.

Parish Levies

Each year a proportion of our income is taken as a levy by the diocese to pay for services that support parishes around the diocese. These include the Diocesan Education Service, Youth Service, Curial Offices and Safeguarding.

Legacies

Our faith is at the centre of our daily lives, and the work of our parish is generously supported in many practical ways. I should like to invite you to consider leaving a legacy to Our Lady's in your Will. A simple legacy gift is a good way of continuing your generosity to the parish. There are leaflets at the back of church which can help you to do this.

Church/Don Bosco Centre Costs

Our payments for the church and the Don Bosco Centre last year appear to be less than the year before. **BUT** we are still awaiting electricity bills for the last six months of the year which we are expecting to be painfully large!

Charities

During the year we always have special collections for various charities and appeals and you always respond with impressive generosity. On behalf of those charities thank you very much. For all charitable appeals you gave £7,227.74 in 2023.

2024

Times continue to be very difficult for everybody financially, but I need to ask everyone to be as generous as you can in your support of our church this year, please. We will do our best to keep expenses down, but we are expecting to have a large deficit this year.

Some specific ways you might like to support the parish finances might be:

- To sponsor the live streaming of services from Our Lady's for £30.00 a week.
- To pay £5.00 for a candle to burn for a week beside the tabernacle or one of the statues in the church.
- To contribute to the cost of flowers in the church each week.
- Or to give your time as new volunteers to help are always welcome.

Thank you to everyone for your kindness and generosity over the last twelve months. Thank you to the members of the parish finance committee who oversee the management of income, expenditure, and our accountability to the diocese.

Receipts/Payments 2023

2023

2022

2024

(Forecast)

Receipts to 31st December

Offertories - Gift Aid	£18,579.28	£20,184.13	£18,000.00
Offertories - Non Gift Aid GASDS eligible	£21,467.48	£16,559.12	£20,000.00
Offertories - Non Gift Aid NOT eligible for GASDS	£7,604.00	£6,004.00	£7,000.00
Legacy	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Donations - Gift Aid	£150.00	£100.00	£100.00
Donations - Non Gift Aid	£7,692.83	£6,759.69	£6,000.00
Donations - on line via Archdiocesan Website	£710.03	£1,346.00	£500.00
Donations - Church Floor Renovation Fund	£3,886.86	£0.00	£1,280.00
Fund Raising - Church Floor Renovation Fund	£3,090.98	£0.00	£540.00
Second Collections - Church Floor Renovation Fund	£1,606.78	£0.00	£0.00
Donations - Gift Aid - Church Floor Renovation Fund	£900.00	£0.00	£100.00
Fund Raising (for 2024)	£0.00	£1,250.65	£1,000.00
Gift Aid/GASDS Tax Claims	£8,592.96	£11,564.35	£6,500.00
Votive Candles	£2,010.01	£1,591.95	£2,000.00
Repository	£1,343.37	£944.81	£1,000.00
Don Bosco Centre	£7,770.00	£4,281.50	£7,000.00
Car Park Income	£1,908.00	£2,482.00	£1,900.00
Total Receipts	£87,312.58	£73,068.20	£72,920.00

Payments to 31st December

Church/Don Bosco Centre	£21,434.00	£23,545.69	£30,000.00
Church Floor Renovation Cost	£12,822.00	£0.00	£0.00
House	£12,402.29	£8,834.83	£13,500.00
Clergy Expenses/Supply	£3,088.00	£2,768.00	£3,000.00
Office Expenses and Personnel/Wages	£16,788.74	£15,410.04	£17,000.00
Parish Levies	£11,657.20	£12,044.80	£17,300.00
Fund Raising Expenses	£0.00	£0.00	£100.00
Parish Donations	£860.00	£480.00	£1,000.00
Votive Candles	£1,152.50	£703.50	£1,000.00
Repository	£844.87	£710.97	£800.00
Interest Paid/Bank Charges	£781.48	£426.30	£800.00
Total Payments	£81,831.08	£64,924.13	£84,500.00
Surplus/(deficit) on normal activity	£5,481.50	£8,144.07	-£11,580.00

Bank Statement Balance at 31st December

-£14,657.56

-£16,779.39

Here's a riddle: how can you give more money to our parish without it costing you any more?



- Learn how you can give more to the Church through a tax rebate.

Dear Parishioners

I know that we all appreciate our beautiful church and all that goes on around it. I thank you all for your generosity especially over the last year when things have been very difficult for many. But it takes a lot of money to run a parish and so I must ask you to think about the financial support that you give to Our Lady Help of Christians.

There is a way to give more money without it coming out of your pocket. As a charity we can claim money back from the government at no cost to yourselves under the Gift Aid scheme.

*The Parish benefits as it can claim tax relief from the government i.e. for every £10.00 you give, the Parish will receive a further £2.50 from the government (please make sure that you have paid at least as much tax as we are claiming back because HMRC will hold you responsible to pay any excess). I am extremely grateful to the many parishioners in the Parish who already support this scheme, **but the number of people registered for Gift Aid has been slowly decreasing for a while, and I would like to ask you all to consider joining the Gift Aid scheme with effect from April 2024, please.***

Your contribution would be completely flexible week by week depending on your financial circumstances. You can give in the weekly collections by using the Gift Aid envelopes or you can set up a standing order. You can leave the scheme at any time should you so wish.

What you need to know about Gift Aid:

- *It's a real help to the Parish.*
- *It is a confidential scheme.*
- *You do not have to promise to give a certain amount of money.*
- *There are no details of earnings needed.*

If you feel you can support the scheme please fill in a Gift Aid Declaration Form, available from Geraldine Griffin, Parish Secretary, Email: olhoc.oxford@rcaob.org.uk, Tel: 01865 770 910, or you can download a copy from the parish website [Donations and Gift Aid | Our Lady Help of Christians - Cowley - Oxford \(olhoccowley.co.uk\)](https://www.ourladyhelpofchristians-cowley-oxford.org.uk/donations-and-gift-aid).

Thank you and please support our parish community as much as you can.

Fr. Harry Curtis